thought what a pity it was that those houses which might
be made so beautiful, should be kept in such a state."

"That is just what papa was saying the other morning at
breakfast. He said that he had had the houses built on the
most approved principles, with every sort of convenience
and facility for the promotion of health and order, and yet
when he took a party of gentleman down to the pit last
week, he was utterly ashamed to observe the squalor and
misery of the place. He said that some of the worst slums
of London could hardly be worse, except in the matter of
light and air, and even these the people seemed to be doing
their best to exclude, judging from the dust covered and
tightly closed windows. It just occurred to me while he was
speaking that perhaps I might be able to do something to
remedy this terrible state of affairs. I am sure papa would
be glad to do anything to help us. I have not said anything
to him about it till I should hear your verdict, and because I
haven't the least shadow af an idea what plan would be best
to go upon. What do you think of it?"

"I think it will be a very difficult matter, and will require
a great deal of consideration," replied Mabel thoughtfully.

"But you don't think it impossible or impracticable?" inquired Minnie, anxiously.

"Impossible?—no," replied she, "But do you think our
hands will be strong enough, and our hearts stout enough for
such an undertaking. It is not a thing we may take up to
amuse ourselves with for a moment, and throw down when
we are tired of it."